

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

PUMPING PLANT

(No.)

CODE 533

DEFINITION

A pumping facility installed to transfer water for a conservation need.

PURPOSE

Provide a dependable water source or disposal facility for water management.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Wherever water must be pumped to accomplish a conservation objective, which may include (but is not limited to) one of the following:

- To provide a water supply for such purposes as irrigation, recreation, livestock, or wildlife.
- To maintain critical water levels in swamps, marshes, open water, or for newly constructed wetlands and ponds.
- To transfer wastewater for utilization as part of a waste management system.
- To provide drainage by the removal of surface runoff water or ground water.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

This practice shall conform to all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations. Laws, rules, and regulations of particular concern include those involving water rights, land use, pollution control, property easements, wetlands, preservation of cultural resources, and endangered species.

The efficiency of units, type of power, quality of building, automation features, and other accessories installed shall be in keeping with the

economic and environmental value of the system to accomplish the conservation objectives.

Criteria for the design of components not addressed in conservation practice standards shall be consistent with sound engineering principles.

Drainage. Design requirements for drainage by pumping are in Chapter 7 of National Engineering Handbook Section 16, Drainage of Agricultural Land.

Irrigation. Design requirements for irrigation pumping are in Chapter 8 of National Engineering Handbook Section 15, Irrigation.

Pump requirements. Capabilities, range of operating heads, and general class and efficiency of equipment shall be determined by appropriate technical means. Size and number of pumps and their performance shall be determined based on system conservation requirements in order to meet the intended purpose. Total head shall be determined for critical operating conditions, taking into account all hydraulic losses. Automatic controls shall be included as required.

Pumps utilized for the transfer of wastewater or manure shall be sized to transfer material at the required system head and flow rate determined by the waste management plan. The pump type shall be based on the consistency of material being pumped and the manufacturer's recommendations.

Pumps may be of the turbine, horizontal centrifugal, magnetic drive impeller, diaphragm, mixed flow, or propeller type designed to operate at not less than 70 percent efficiency for given site conditions. All pumps should be equipped with a strainer or screen at the intake

end to prevent clogging. Horizontal centrifugal pumps shall be equipped with a suction line no less in size than the discharge. Horizontal pumps shall be equipped with the required appurtenances to enable them to be easily primed. Turbine pumps except those with submersible motors shall not be installed in wells that are not sufficiently straight and plumb to allow proper operation of the pump. Automatic plants generally will be equipped with self-priming pumps.

The capacity of pumps installed in wells should be based on the capacity curve for the well. Generally, pump capacity shall not exceed 90 percent of the well capacity.

Power units. Power units shall be selected based on availability of fuel or power, costs, operating conditions, and conservation needs and objectives (including the need for automation). The power unit shall be matched to the pump and be capable of operating the pump efficiently and effectively within the range of operating conditions. The horsepower requirements, pump efficiency, and total head on the pump shall be computed.

Electric motors shall usually be 3-phase where power requirements exceed 5 horsepower, although phase converters may be used effectively up to 20 to 25 horsepower and shall not be loaded beyond their rated horsepower. The utility company serving the plant shall be consulted relative to power and phase requirements.

Electric motors may also be powered by photovoltaic cells (solar panels). The number and size of the solar panels will depend on the amperage and voltage required by the pump to meet head-discharge requirements. Use the manufacturer's recommendations to determine solar panel size and number and for the installation of the solar panels.

Internal combustion engines shall be loaded 80 to 100 percent of the manufacturer's rating to achieve the best engine efficiency. The rating shall be reduced for temperature, altitude, and motor accessories.

Suction and discharge pipes. The size of suction and discharge pipes shall be based on a hydraulic analysis, operating cost, and compatibility with other system components. The arrangement and length of discharge pipe shall

be based on the need for recovery of head through siphoning action and for delivery of water in keeping with conservation and environmental objectives. Gates, valves, pipe connections, discharge bays, and other protective devices shall be installed (as needed) for satisfactory pumping plant operation.

Federal, state, and local laws and regulations concerning back flow prevention shall be followed when pumping from wells or chemigating.

Building and accessories. The design of the pumping plant and associated housing (if required) shall consider accessibility for equipment maintenance and repairs and the need for protecting equipment from the elements, vandalism, and fire. The appearance of the plant shall be compatible with the surrounding environment, as applicable.

Foundations shall be designed to safely support the loads imposed. Sheet piling or other measures shall be used, as required, to prevent piping beneath the foundation.

Pumps may be mounted in the open, on piling or concrete foundations, in a well or pit, or by other appropriate means.

Suction bays (or sumps) shall be designed to conform to the hydraulic characteristics established by the pump manufacturer.

The discharge bay or connection with the distribution system shall meet hydraulic and structural requirements. Provisions for repair or removal of pumps and engines shall be provided. Trash racks shall be provided, as needed, to exclude debris and trash from the pump.

All structural features and equipment shall provide adequate safety features to protect workers and the public from injury.

CONSIDERATIONS

When planning this practice, the following items should be considered (as applicable):

- Effects on downstream flows or aquifer recharge volumes
- Effects on existing wetland hydrology

- Effects on surface and ground water by leaked or spilled fuels and lubricants
- Secondary containment of spilled fuel for water quality as may be required by federal and state laws or regulations
- Protection of system components from "natural" events such as floods

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for constructing pumping plants shall comply with this standard and describe the requirements for properly installing the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and maintenance plan specific to the facilities installed shall be prepared for use by the landowner or responsible operator. The plan shall provide specific instructions for operating and maintaining facilities to ensure the pumping plant functions properly. As a minimum, the plan shall include provisions to address the following:

- Inspection or testing of all pumping plant components and appurtenances, as applicable
- Proper start-up procedures for the operation of the pumping plant

- Routine maintenance of all mechanical components (power unit, pump, drive train, etc.) in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
- Frequent checks for fuel or lubricant leaks (when applicable) of the power unit, fuel storage facilities, and fuel lines; and repairs as needed
- Periodic checks and removal of debris as necessary from trash racks and structures to assure adequate capacity reaches the pumping plant
- Periodic removal of sediment in suction bays to maintain design capacity and efficiency
- Inspect and maintain anti-siphon devices, if applicable
- Routinely test and inspect all automation components of the pumping plant to assure they are functioning as designed
- Inspect and maintain secondary containment facilities, if applicable.
- Periodic inspection of all safety features to ensure they are in place and functional
- Prior to retrofitting any electrically powered equipment, electrical service must be disconnected and the absence of stray electrical current verified